

SACRAMENTO DAILY RECORD-UNION!

VOLUME LXII.--NO. 116.

SACRAMENTO, SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1890.

WHOLE NO. 12,048.

RAGING ELEMENTS.

The Storm Renews With Increased Vindictiveness.

SNOW, HAIL AND RAIN-STORMS.

Several Persons Crushed by a Terrible Snow-Slide at Sierra City-Etc.

[SPECIAL DISPATCHES TO THE RECORD-UNION.]

CRUSHED BY THE SNOW.

Seven Lives Lost and Homes Destroyed at Sierra City.

SIERRA CITY, January 3d.—A terrible and fatal snow-slide occurred here at 2 o'clock this afternoon, resulting in seven deaths.

Two or four houses were also completely demolished, not a trace of them being left.

The force was so great that large oak trees were swept away as if made of paper.

The residence of I. T. Mooney caught fire and his wife and daughter were burnt to crisp.

The names of the dead, so far as known are:

Mrs. Rich, daughter and son.

Miss Ryan of Downieville.

Mrs. L. T. Mooney and daughter.

Miss Ethel Langton.

The end is not yet, and great apprehension exists for a portion of the town.

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ONE DRENCHED.

The Town Flooded by the Worst Storm of the Season.

ONE, January 3d.—The heaviest rain-storm of the season has drenched the valley between 1 and 5 o'clock p. m., flooding yards, cellars, and creating considerable commotion among women and children, who were out shopping or returning from school.

For a while many feared a repetition of the flood of the 11th of January, 1862, when one house was washed away and several persons drowned in Sutter Creek, which runs through the town.

The storm, however, was of short duration, and did not cause an overflow of the creek.

Three inches of snow fell twelve miles above here.

Stages from all parts of the county still connect with the Amador Branch Railroad.

MORE TROUBLE SOUTH.

Washouts Again Delay the Trains, and Worse is Feared.

SAAN BERNARDINO, January 3d.—Rain commenced here this morning, and has been falling in fitful showers all day.

Fear is entertained of more damage to the railroads. Cajon Pass is in bad condition.

Several washouts are reported from the heavy rains in the mountains.

The overland going East was tied up here all the afternoon, and will not leave before to-morrow. The overland from the East is tied up at Barstow.

The train plied on the Lytle creek bridge, west of here, on the Santa Fe road, is washed out, and a washout is reported between Los Angeles and Pasadena. The chances are that no trains will go to-morrow. The first San Francisco mail for ten days arrived at Colton this morning. The Postoffice officials were busy all day distributing it.

The outlook is very gloomy, as another heavy rain will do great damage.

SEATTLE FROZEN.

Steamers Tied Up and Rivers Rendered Unnavigable.

SEATTLE (Wash.)—January 3d.—The cold snap and general freeze-up which at present exists is the worst known here for eight years.

The rivers are emptying into Puget Sound in frozen lumens. They are closed to navigation.

Hood's Canal is also frozen.

Many steamers are tied up owing to the fact that they cannot get water at Seattle or other river ports, as the water pipes are all frozen up. They will not use salt water, as it rusts the boilers.

The steamer City of Pueblo arrived at 11 o'clock to-day, and reports a strong gale, accompanied by a blinding snow-storm, during her passage. The Pueblo was six hours behind her schedule.

THE HEAVIEST IN YEARS.

NEVADA CITY, January 3d.—Sixteen inches of snow has fallen in this city in twenty-four hours. Telegraphic communication with the lower country was interrupted all day, but a line is open to-night. The stage roads to Downieville and Washington are closed. It is the heaviest storm experienced in years.

HAIL AND ICE AT MERCEDES.

MERCED, January 3d.—The heaviest rains have fallen here to-morrow for many years. It was accompanied by thunder, lightning, and hail, the latter lying upon the pavements and roofs of houses one inch deep. An overflow throughout the valley must necessarily result. The rain continues to fall heavily up to this hour.

AT BAKERSFIELD.

BAKERSFIELD, January 3d.—Rain has fallen all day, the heaviest of the season, amounting to .30 of an inch, and a total of a total of 1.80 inches fell. The first mail arrived to-day from the south since December 24th, owing to the delays caused by the washout in the southern part of the State.

DOWN SOUTH.

HOLLISTER, January 3d.—During the past twenty-four hours 14 inches of rain has fallen, making 14 inches for the season at Hollister. At other points in San Benito county as high as 25 inches have fallen. Snow covers the surrounding mountains a foot in depth. The weather is warm but threatening.

Rain, Snow and Hail.

SANTA ROSA, January 3d.—At last night about 10 o'clock snow fell for fifteen minutes. To-day at noon hail fell heavily for some time. The foothills are covered with snow, and the weather is very cold. It continues to rain to-night. The total rainfall for the season is 27 inches.

VISALIA's Mud.

VISALIA, January 3d.—There was a rain last night and .60 on an inch fell, making 8.55 inches for the season. The mud is worse than ever. Bushels dry and delivery wagons are double-timed now. Mud has advanced in price.

STILL SNOWING AT PLACERVILLE.

PLACERVILLE (Ind.), January 3d.—The strike of freight crews on the Mackay system of roads is spreading. Late to-night it was learned from a reliable source that the switchmen, brakemen and conductors on the Peoria, Decatur and Evansville and Atlanta roads had been ordered to stop work. This also included the men on the Cincinnati, Wabash and Michigan, the latest acquisition of Mackay, will join the strikers.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.

"You needn't look at yourself in the glass so much, Mary," said a husband sarcastically; "you are not so very handsome."

"Everybody doesn't think as you do," she said as she gave an extra twirl to a ringlet and added a more rakish set to her hair.

A LIFE BLAZE.

OAKDALE, January 3d.—At 9:15 o'clock to-night a fire was discovered in the room of a small wooden building on the corner of Railroad avenue and G street, occupied as a furniture store by Edward Smallwood, with a barber-shop and saloon adjoining, which were burned to the ground. By judicious

which melted as it fell. The total rain for the season to date is 20.27 inches.

Napa Valley.

NAPA, January 3d.—It rained heavily all morning, but it is now clear. Snow may be seen on the mountains surrounding the valley. The rainfall for twenty-four hours was .05 of an inch, and for the season, 22.38 inches.

Snow and Hail in Sonoma.

SONOMA, January 3d.—A heavy hail-storm visited this place about 1 o'clock this afternoon, and snow fell on the hills one mile from town.

No Signs of Abating.

WOODLAND, January 3d.—The storm still continues. Some snow fell here to-day.

OUR MARY'

Wouldn't Discourage Matrimony but Tells a Funny Story.

NEW YORK, January 3d.—A special from Niles says: "Mary Anderson was interviewed by your correspondent at the Hotel Mediterranean to-day on the subject of her reported engagement to young Navarro, of New York.

She blushingly said: "I am aware that people are interested in me, and have published in New York, but I don't desire to discuss the subject at present. Apropos of this, let me relate a recent incident: Another Miss Anderson, who lived in the same terrace, was going to be married in London. Her bridal presents were regally brought to me to-day, getting angry, because I had informed her that I was engaged to B. Marks for the benefit of San Francisco creditors. The company has also a branch store at Seattle."

Froze to Death.

HAWTHORNE (Nev.)—January 3d.—Frank Gifford was found frozen to death in his cabin at Whisky Flat, fifteen miles from this city, made an application this morning to B. Marks for the benefit of San Francisco creditors.

The body was found in a chair.

The police are investigating the case.

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TO PRESERVE THE MISSION.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 3d.—This afternoon Goodall, Perkins & Co. called the following dispatch, which explains exactly what has transpired, which concerns the steamer Mare Island, belonging to the Standard Soap Company, while leaving her birth this afternoon was run into by the schooner Reporter, in tow of the tug Alert. It did considerable damage, but no one was injured.

Failure of a Dry Goods House.

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FARM AND ORCHARD.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE DIFFERENT BREEDS OF FOWLS.

The Incubator and the Brooder—Keep Up With the Procession—Cheap Sugar—Farm Notes.

Mrs. E. P. Duden, of Lake House, one of the most valued correspondents of the Farm and Orchard department of the RECORD UNION, writes as follows in regard to the different breeds of fowls:

"Of the Cochins there are four varieties—the White, Buff, Black and Partridge Cochin—all of which have the same origin, the Shanghai fowl. Thirty-five or forty years ago, when the Shanghai fowl was first introduced into this country, they created a great furor in poultry circles and commanded almost fabulous prices, single specimen bringing \$100 in New York. For a while much interest was taken in the new fowl and pains taken to keep the breed pure. But then soon became more plentiful and every farmer could boast of more or less Shanghai chickens. But after being crossed and recrossed with other varieties their identity was nearly lost, though still retaining the large size and feathered shanks. After a while poultrymen became again interested and picking out good specimens began breeding for color, and the result is the varieties above named. The Partridge, Buff and White are the largest, the standard weight being 11 pounds. The Partridge and Buff Cochin are, I think, the most handsome. I cannot tell by experience much about their good qualities, as I have bred them but a short time, and they are highly recommended by poultrymen.

The White Plymouth Rock, a sport of the barred variety has been established that it has been admitted into the American standard of excellence. They possess all of the good qualities of their barred relatives. They are almost equal the Leghorns for laying, and are not given to being broody. Though not quite as large as the barred variety they are of good size, and look well when dressed for the table. It seems a little odd that the Plymouth Rocks should throw so many white sports when there was no white blood in either of the birds that were crossed to produce the Plymouth Rock. I have occasionally heard of a black sport. Two years ago I had a black chick among my Plymouth Rocks. It proved to be a pullet, and on arriving at maturity was a perfect beauty, and a Plymouth Rock in every particular, excepting the color, which was black as jet.

"White Wyandottes are also coming into favor. White sports from the Wyandotte does are often seen, strange, as the White Cochin does are seen, strange, as the White Wyandotte does used in the make-up of the Wyandottes used.

The California Cockerel has the following: "On October 2d, as the City of Puebla outward bound for Victoria and Puget Sound, was about twenty miles off shore and fifty north of the Golden Gate, a homing-pigeon, marked B. 5717, that was lost in the race from the State Fair in September, flew onto the rail of the steamer in an exhausted condition. The Purser, Mr. Byers, caught it and took it on to Victoria, and on his return took it to his home in San Rafael and advertised it in the San Francisco Examiner. H. H. Carlton saw the advertisement and reported to Mr. Bayley the owner, and it is safe in his loft."

THE INCUBATOR AND THE BROODER.

The advantages supposed to be gained by the use of an incubator are summarized thus by a writer in the *Poultry Keeper*:

1. Ten times more eggs can be hatched by one machine, in the same length of time, than by one hen; at the same time requiring no more attention than the hen.

2. It is an easier and more agreeable job to turn the eggs and fill the lamp, daily, of an incubator, than to lift a cross and fussy hen from the nest, feed her and watch that she return to duty at the proper time.

3. An incubator will not trample on and break the eggs, as is nearly always the case, more or less, with a setting hen.

4. It is a difficult matter to keep live and mated fowls from multiplying, and the setting hen, which is, to say the least, a source of great annoyance to the hen. There is no chance for such a state of affairs in an incubator. These little pests won't germinate and grow fat on ash or oak buds.

5. The inclination of an incubator to become broody does not have to be consulted, as is the case with her great American henship. Give it the eggs, light the lamp, and the machine is your obedient servant for as long a period as its services are required.

6. The machine will not become weak or emaciated from overwork; and chicks can thus be hatched out for months at a stretch.

7. There is more pleasure and fewer vexations trials in operating an incubator than there is in steering to victory an obstinate brood.

The brooder is a necessary annex to the incubator, and its advantages are set forth by the same writer as follows:

1. Sung and secure quarters are ever ready for the young chicks when taken from the incubator.

2. Two hundred chicks can be handled and cared for in one-tenth the time it would require were they with hen.

3. The chicks can be fed more regularly and much more evenly, and are less liable to disease and accident; and raids from vermin and snakes are impossible.

4. The chicks can be kept dry and comfortable at all times, and this, too, with one-fourth the attention necessary were they running with hen.

5. It is almost impossible for lice and mites to attack the chicks, for there is no cause for parasites of this nature to get a start.

6. Chicks reared in this way become very docile, and consequently much easier handled when they mature.

7. There is five times more pleasure attached to rearing chickens in a brooder than otherwise, and there is no inducement for the poultier to fly off the handle and perhaps say something mean.

These few suggestions are drawn from practical experience and the universal verdict of those who have operated both incubators and brooders for years; and I think they will be found, in the main, correct.

CHEAP SUGAR.

We feel certain that sorghum sugar is coming on and will soon be a very important element in the market, cutting under all trusts and monopolies. What with honey, the maple and the naturalized Chinese sugar plants, the ingenious people of North America will work out their salvation on the question of sweet for domestic use. Dr. Peter Colling of the New York Experimental Station says he believes that in the near future sugar from sorghum will be produced, on a large scale, at a cost not exceeding one cent per pound. In an experimental trial on one hundred and thirty-three tons of cane, he obtained one hundred and thirty and a half pounds of sugar per ton, and more than sixteen gallons of molasses. Will not the day arrive when every county or township may have its own sugar refinery, at least wherever sorghum or jimpie can be cultivated?

KEEP UP WITH THE PROCESSION.

Farming is more progressive than almost any other branch of industry. If a farmer does not keep step with the advancing progress of the age, he had better seek some other employment. It is no use to sell out and seek some richer soil or more propitious climate. Work, constant and intelligent, is required in all climates and lands. Cultivate habits of greater

economy, but do not skimp yourself or family. Stop the leaks and wastes. Competition is more pressing and more intelligent than in the days just past. Have better implements and take better care of them. Breed and keep only the most profitable class of stock; make their stable warmer, and prepare their food with more care and feed it to them more regularly. Have arrangements made for work for rainy or stormy days. Arrange the farm or stock so that summer will not be one grand rush and winter a season of idleness. Move out of all of the old ruts, but not out of the State or neighborhood. Make everything count and carefully count everything. On farm, as elsewhere, a man seldom rises higher than his aim. If a farmer gets ahead and wins, it is because he is a business man, and directs his farm on business principles.

ILLUSTRATION.

An Illinois fruit paper contains the following illustration of how they pack apples in those States:

And now the honest farmer packs His apples up in barrels—
This is the top of his barrels—
OOOOOOOOOOOOOO
And this is lower down—
OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO
And then the wily salesman Sets them upon the floor:
The purchaser's mouth when he looks at the top
And this when he fishes low'r—

CAKE OF CREAM.

Cream should be kept cold and sweet until there is enough for a churning, and then all cream or ripened alike is turned in a warm room, and stirred from bottom to top once an hour. Experts claim that this method will produce one-tenth more butter than by the promiscuous mixing of the cream in all stages of ripening, and if faithfully observed would save the butter makers of the country thousands of dollars. The time taken to churn does not affect product unless forced by temperature, and need not exceed fifteen minutes if cream is in proper condition. Milk cooled rapidly to forty degrees will give a clear separation of cream in four to twenty hours. Winter dairying was commenced. The use of malt sprouts was condemned, as the butter will not keep. Cause supposed to be undeveloped nitrogen.

FARM NOTES.

There is hardly anything better for the cracked and sore teats of cows than rich, old boiled linseed oil. It softens them and enters every crack, and then dries, forming a skin which keeps the sore from dirt and the air and allows it to heal rapidly.

Can I grow mutton profitably 300 miles from the market? asks a correspondent. Well, Kentucky sells more than 20,000 sheep every year in the Boston market, and gets more per pound for them than New England breeders can get for their sheep.

If we could impress farmers and gardeners with the importance of thoroughly testing seed before planting we should remove the cause of an immense amount of failure in crops. Nine-tenths of the trouble in growing crops, we believe, is to be found in poor seed.

According to the *Rural New Yorker* a salt meadow hay mulch six inches deep applied every five or six years is a great benefit to an orchard. The best orchard editor ever saw was treated in this way, the hens being occasionally turned in to give the hay a good scratching.

If farmers who have large weeds growing in front of their farms would take a ride along those where the weeds are kept mowed down it seems to us they would surely mow their own weeds. The trouble is light and the improved appearance worth a great deal to the farm and the farming reputation.

For the great mass of farmers the cheapest, safest and best method of improving their stock is the continued use of good and pure bred sires on the best females obtainable, but the present low prices of pure breed stock makes it an especially good time in which to lay the foundation for a full fledged flock.

After the road tax is worked out many farmers think that all they do after that on the roads is lost labor. Really, the making of good roads is more to the farmer's interest than any other kind of tax he pays. Equally so it should seem is the keeping of weeds from seedling, either on his land or that of his neighbors.

The personal qualities of the animals to be bred are of greater and more important than those of their parents, the grand-parents, and vastly more important than those of any more remote ancestors. The offspring resembles the parent much more frequently than it does some more remote ancestors.

It seems singular that the country, the greatest producer of badstuffs in the world, should be an importer of badstuffs at the same time. Yet we do import this class of products to a limited extent, although the fact that we may be news to many people. In the first nine months of the current year we imported badstuffs to the value of \$3,101,47.

A poultry yard can properly be the dumping ground for a great deal of vegetable rubbish, to give the occupants exercise in scratching and to convert the rubbish into manure or mulch. A ton of straw, straws, leaves, salt or bog hay, seaweed or cornstals will soon be scratched fine in a populous poultry-yard. The weather assists, of course.

If you cannot procure meat for your fowls, buy them some cotton-seed meal. Fed daily, one pint to a mess of soft food for 200 hens is sufficient. Milk is also an excellent substitute for meat, and, in fact, is considered preferable by some poultry dealers. No matter how well balanced their ration may be, change it often. A variety of food gives zest to the appetite and stimulates digestion.

There is much more nutrient in the seed of sorghum than there is in broomcorn seed, which is its habit of growth it so much resembles. Sorghum seed is really a valuable grain, and in China and India is the chief cereal. It is a good source of human food than any other grain. Wheat and rice are considered extra delicacies, while sorghum grain is the staple of the poorer and working classes. It really makes better griddle-cakes when ground than any other grain excepting buckwheat, and for poultry it is considered better than corn.

There are two classes of insecticides, those that are used as internal poisons and those that kill by contact. Of the former we have green, London purple and white arsenic, which are diluted by lime, plaster, flour or finely sifted ashes, and dusted upon plants, the leaves of which are consumed by the depredatory insects. Of the latter there are hellebore, pyrethrum, carbolic acid, tobacco, bisulphite of carbon, benzine, gasoline, coal tar and kerosene emulsion. Lime and plaster are also effective in some cases in repelling insects.

One would think that every dairyman would strive to produce butter which the consumer would take off his hands at a profit. Such is not the case. Western dairymen are waking up to progressive methods of butter-making. Their market for choice creamy butter is broadening yearly by. Not only does the Western dairyman send his fine products to the Atlantic cities, but also to the Pacific slope. In the first ten days in October the Angeles alone received five carloads of Eastern butter. She has imported 227,000 pounds of butter in the past six months. California depends on New Zealand for her choice butter.—American Cultivator.

You can easily stop a horse or cow from jumping fences when out at pasture in this way: Put a strap, with a ring on it, around the near foreleg, above the knee, and a fursling or belt with a ring around the

body. Then, by a short strap or piece of rope, attach the two rings so as to make a harmless yet perfectly effective halter. Halter-pulling in the stall may be effectively and easily broken. Put a slip-noosed rope around the body, lead the end of it between the animal's forelegs up through the halter, and make it fast to the manager. Then go up in the loft and throw down a lot of clattering tin cans into the manger. When the horse jumps back the rope will catch him and bring him forward. It will not be long before you can not make him jump back.

OULD DOCTOR MACK.

Ye may tramp the world over
From Dover,
And stay the way to rechange to Arragon,
Circum'nt back
But to old Doctor Mack you can't furnish a
ponson.
Have ye the dropsy?
The gout, the autopsy?
Fresh morn and limbs instantaneous he'll shape
No ways infarior
In limb or sinster.
And lines of postur of cold Ayscupions.
He and his wig will end so caroty,
Aigle eye and complexion clarety:
Here's to his health,
His king, his kind and the crane of all
charity!

HOW THE RICH AND POOR.

To the rich, the world over
From Dover,
And stay the way to rechange to Arragon,
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But to old Doctor Mack you can't furnish a
ponson.
Have ye the dropsy?
The gout, the autopsy?

Fresh morn and limbs instantaneous he'll shape
No ways infarior
In limb or sinster.
And lines of postur of cold Ayscupions.
He and his wig will end so caroty,
Aigle eye and complexion clarety:
Here's to his health,
His king, his kind and the crane of all
charity!

How the rich and poor.

To the rich, the world over
From Dover,
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Circum'nt back
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FARMER AYER'S ANGER.

A TERROR TO HORSE-THIEVES AND HIS DAUGHTER'S LOVERS.

Life of an Eccentric Iowa Farmer—Strange Complications Which Put Him Under Arrest

(From the Chicago Herald.)

The following obituary notice, which appeared in some of the Chicago daily papers last Thursday morning, marks the close of a life not especially eventful, but one which was redeemed from monotony at least by an incident which is still remembered by many citizens of Governor Boies' State:

ROSE GROVE (la.), November 13th.—Herbert M. Ayer, the eccentric farmer of Hardin county, died yesterday of consumption. He was a man of eccentric habits, and had devoted the last twenty years of his life to an attempt to remove the county seat from Eldora, owing to many trials and tribulations which resulted in his arrest at that place on a charge of horse-stealing.

Herbert Ayer was indeed an eccentric character. He was one bunch of the most complex nerves that ever answered to the name of man. In a very early day he pushed beyond the ordinary lines of pioneers and pitched his tent in Hardin county, pre-empted a homestead and settled down to win some sort of a fortune from the luxuriant soil. He had brought no wealth beyond that it piled in the possession of a good team and wagon, together with a very slender outfit of farming tools, but he worked so industriously and seemed to learn the peculiarities of the new soil and climate so readily that in two years' time he had a most promising start toward a home. He disappeared suddenly one autumn just after corn was gathered, and was gone until Thanksgiving Day, when he arrived at his farm and surprised the Swedes he had left in charge of the stock by introducing his wife. She was a strong-built, dark-haired woman, not particularly handsome, but was armored against her husband's wildest nervous shocks by the most perfect self-possession imaginable. She was never excited; she was seldom calm. She was never angry; she was often in a rage. She was a clean, but not a rapid housekeeper; he was not a perfect workman, but could accomplish more results in a day than any three men of his acquaintance.

In course of time two children were born to this pair, the elder, a girl, who grew up in beauty, inheriting her father's nervous nature, tempered by her mother's calm reserved force. The children accumulated, year after year, their father accumulated wealth, and by the time Agnes Ayer was 18 her father was in rather better shape financially than any farmer in the township. He was still pursued by the demon of irascibility, and had cursed nearly every neighbor in turn, but his seasons of wrath were always succeeded by the most generous of tempers, and at such times he was the foremost man in Hardin county to lend a helping hand. But there was one subject the mention of which would change his most placid moments into whirlwinds of rage, and that was horse-stealing. Gentlemen who lived by nocturnal borrowings of choice farm horses had laid Hardin county under tribute for so long that a society known as the "Anti-Horse-thief Association" was formed, and Ayer was chief officer of the branch having jurisdiction of the western half of the state. He had never lost any horses himself, but he had on four different occasions been roused from his slumbers just in time to protect his property and to see ill-meaning men galloping away into the night. At such times he would alarm the household with the most unearthly yell, would charge into the night with two revolvers and a shotgun, screaming and shooting like one possessed, and escaping self-mutilation only by a succession of miracles which ceased when he ran out of ammunition. His wild awakenings always alarmed the neighborhood for miles around and secured substantial immunity for horseflesh throughout his territory.

He arranged a series of signals in his house connecting the barn, granary and smokehouse with a primitive alarm clock in his bedroom by stringing fine wires over pulleys and pulleys which could enter a gate nor approach any of the storehouses or of his wealth without setting off a pyramid of dishpans and flatirons by the ear, right at his bedside, and so lightly did he sleep that at the first intimation of danger conveyed by his strange device he was out of bed, snatching firearms from every shelf and charging from one outhouse to another in the thinnest of raiment. So well were his peculiarities known that Agnes' admirers were content to do their courting under the broad light of day, and in a manner so unimpassioned that father and mother might pass on the propriety of every act. But, handsome and good as the girl was, this stilted sort of devotion warned away many choice lovers, till Lyle King's father moved into the country and bought a farm adjoining Ayer's. Old Reub King was a quiet but very strict-fisted farmer, and the young man had been given advantages of education unusual in those days. He was handsome, strong and determined, and when he found his admiration for Agnes Ayer was reciprocated he would have won her for his wife in spite of all the fire alarms in Iowa.

In 1868, notwithstanding the very vigorous efforts of the anti-horse-thief clubs, the prevalence of horse-stealing had become so marked that scarcely a week passed without a neighborhood alarm being raised. Four times during that year—a year made memorable by the first election of General Grant to the Presidency—the regulators succeeded in capturing thieves in the very act of stealing horses, and turned them over to a Sheriff who knew better than to permit their escape, and who knew his business sufficiently well to impose a jury pledge to convict on any reasonable evidence. The regulators found some difficulty in fitting their name to their class of service, and the legend "Member of the Anti Horse-Thief Association" was abridged into "horse-thief" for short. All the members were spoken of familiarly by the farmers and merchants and by each other as "horse-thieves" and they took a grim satisfaction in the name which boded no good to the actual stealers of horses. As the campaign closed and matters began to adjust themselves to natural limits again, the rights of property seemed for once to be observed in the country, but by some strange shifting of cause and effect in the towns became so prevalent that they were outside the Court-room before they knew just what had happened. Then Lyle King, who came with a vague suspicion that a bird in the hand was worth any number in the bush, led his embarrassed companion to the Court-house.

"We'll get married," he said. "By that time your father will be free, and then we will all go home together as happy as three little brothers."

Agnes Ayer was bowed down with shame, and wept incessantly. Such an awful disgrace! Arrested? Arrested for theft! In jail! Oh, how could she ever live? But leaning on this strong young man, who, as he sniffed the air of freedom, began to see the comical side of it all, she gathered strength and went with him to the Court-house, where a crowd stood by and saw them plight their troth.

But through the heat of the campaign young Lyle King, who chanced to be a Democrat, found harder lines in paying court to Agnes than if he had been a horse-thief himself. He was not looked upon with any favor by Herbert Ayer, no matter what he did, and though he rode a breakneck speed all night and overhauled a horse thief single-handed on the morning of October 31st, he lost all the glory it won him by voting for Horatio Seymour November 6th. But, if love can laugh at locksmiths, with how much more of humor can it smile at nervous old farmers who surround their treasures with wire alarms. Lyle loved Agnes and she was glad of it, and gave back the tender passion with interest beyond the dreams of

usury. Kind friends conspired to help them, and bore a note to the girl, setting the light when her lover would come after her.

In the darkness of midnight Agnes arose from her couch, dressed in her Sunday raiment and crept from the house to find her lover waiting in a spring wagon in the shadow of the orchard. Being well acquainted with the location of the wires which her father had strung about his house, she easily crept into the doorway without attracting attention, and joined young King in his newly painted buggy. They took their time driving to Eldora, the county seat, for neither clerks nor clergymen were to be looked for thus early in the morning. The miles had passed in peace, and just at dawn they drove up to the little hotel, which was ample accommodation for the city's transient guests, and asked for breakfast. The landlord eyed them closely as he led them into the parlor, and asked them where they were from. Young King was not ready to make any admissions as yet, and so in an equivocal way said:

"We are from the West," which was strictly true, but not especially satisfying. Breakfast was served them, and just as they sat down to eat an officer marched in and presented a warrant, arresting runaway bride and groom on a charge of stealing.

King seized a chair and swore he would allow no man to offer an insult to a lady in his company, but a crowd rushed in from the bar-room, and both the young people were hustled off to jail, where they were given separate apartments. The only information vouchsafed them was that so many thieves were abroad in the land it was thought best to lock up all suspicious characters. It was believed they were members of a burglar gang, and at all events who would have to wait until persons whose houses had been rifled could come and inspect the latest captures.

But, if trouble had alighted on the banners of young Lyle and his bride, the king of troubles had fastened the talons in the hair of Herbert Ayer. His daughter's escape would have been successful enough had not some ill-starred thief made a rash descent on the old man's stable an hour later. As it was, the moon had just passed Meridian, when some blundering outlaw tripped on the wire before the stable door and knocked down tin and ironware enough in the Ayer kitchen to alarm a garrison. It aroused the farmer soon enough, and he dashed from the house, shouting and swearing with astounding emphasis until he saw his stock was safe, when he returned to the house to dress and pursue the villain. But among the members of his family who gathered to discuss this first alarm in months no Agnes was to be seen.

"Go wake the girl," shrieked the farmer, as he danced about, trying to force a right foot into a left boot.

"She is not there," said the wife calmly, as she returned to the room.

"Great guns and little fishes," roared the farmer, backing around the room in search of his "gallows." He dashed upstairs and tore open room after room, yelling like a demon and demanding impossible things of every inmate of the household.

"She has run away with that—Democrat," shrieked the old man, as he came running down the stairway. "Hit me up the room to the kitchen!" and the hired man was in the stable, but Ayer's command was fairly uttered. Old Ayer rode that morning the first carriage he had ever driven, the coachman held the horses by the bridle, and he dashed from the house, shouting and swearing with astounding emphasis until he saw his stock was safe, when he returned to the house to dress and pursue the villain. But among the members of his family who gathered to discuss this first alarm in months no Agnes was to be seen.

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DAILY RECORD-UNION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1890.

ISSUED BY THE

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Farms and Hotels, and at the Market-street Ferry.

Also, for sale on all Trains leaving and coming into Sacramento.

Weather Forecasts for To-day.

California—Heavy rain in the southern portion; southwesterly winds; cooler in northern portion; nearly stationary temperature in the southern portion.

Oregon and Washington—Continued cold; fair weather.

THE RIVER CONVENTION.

The call for the River Convention has been sent out. It is not too early to suggest, that people may think the matter over at length, that when delegates come up to the Convention its work may not be retarded and its purpose crippled by taking up any incidental questions. The one and only purpose of the Convention is to press upon the attention of the Federal Government the need for the restoration of the navigability of the river, and its protection from injury thereafter by reason of neglect on the part of the Government. It makes no difference whatever what the delegates may think concerning the methods that should be adopted for the accomplishment of the ends in view. The instant the Convention enters upon the consideration of such matters it will flounder. The one thing is to commit the river should be treated by it, and in a comprehensive and systematic manner. The questions of means and method are secondary, and regardless of what the Convention may say the Government will act in such matters only after investigation by its own engineers or Commissioners, and according to their reports of the need for action of a particular character.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT FRANCHISE.

Referring again to the electric light franchise now in process of passage by the Board of City Trustees, we wish to impress upon the minds of the people the danger of granting any such franchise on the term of fifty years, and the grave mistake it will be to grant it for any term of out many carefully considered and clearly expressed restrictions.

We are not opposed, let it be understood, to the granting of this franchise. On the contrary, it ought to be granted under proper restrictions, irrespective of any opposition that may possibly develop, or that has been shown by existing companies. Our suggestions do not arise out of any partisanship, nor are they promoted by any animosity to the new scheme. We stand for the best interests of the people of the city of Sacramento, and the course of the RECORD-UNION all these years should be the best guarantee of its sincerity in this matter. We therefore warn the people once more that there is about to be granted for the period of half a century, from their bounty, a right with which they cannot interfere, at all interfere, to use the streets, alleys and avenues of Sacramento above and below ground, for any and all possible purposes that the grantees may see fit in the use of electricity as an agent for money making; that to this grant there does not attach a solitary restriction; not even as ordinary a one as requires a political committee to clear up the spot on which it builds a bonfire in the street.

ACCUMULATING STRENGTH OF THE BALLOT REFORM.

Ballot reform agitation is rapidly spreading, and is engaging daily more and more the attention of the people. It is by persistence only that its ends are to be accomplished. Its enemies are not few, and the devices to which they will resort to prevent its adoption are those of the trickster politicians. What they most fear is the agitation of the subject, since they well know that the legislation of a State must sooner or later reflect the sentiment of the people behind the legislative body. For this reason the enemies of the reform deplore the prominence the press of the country is now giving the subject, and are bestirring themselves to prevent, so far as they can, the education of the public mind upon the question through the newspaper press. Unless all estimates of the future are wrong, as forecast by the ballot reformers, the new system has come to stay, and will, before the close of the century, be enacted into law in every State of the Union. The testimony accumulates of the growing strength of the reform sentiment, as the following compilation reveals, and which is additional to that already published in these columns.

The Albany Argus, Democratic, pronouncing for its says:

We hope that an honest ballot bill, based on the principles of the territorial system, may be enacted. The practical working of the ballot laws of various States during the year furnished a fund of positive information to determine the form of a measure for this State.

Governer Green, of New Jersey, pronounces for the reform system, saying:

No other plan seems to offer so many advantages, than complete separation of the voter in preparing and casting his ballot. In order to make this isolation complete the tickets should be printed at public expense, and given to the voter by a public officer, just before voting.

In April the new system goes into effect in Rhode Island, and the officials of that commonwealth say that the people are all unanimous in favor of retaining the new law upon the statute book.

In Missouri the new system applies to all cities having over five thousand inhabitants. The testimony is that the leading sentiment now demands that it shall be applied to all voting precincts. In Missouri the law provides that the name of no candidate other than those nominated by conventions of delegates shall be printed on the ticket unless accompanied by a petition signed by one per cent. of the total vote of the previous election in the State or county where the candidate is running.

Governor Fitzhugh Lee, of Virginia, favors the system, with some modifications, for his State, and will bring the matter before the Legislature.

The New York Herald's correspondent says it is practically certain that the latest modifications of reform methods of balloting will be adopted in Iowa this winter.

The new Governor has declared emphatically in favor of them; and the Democratic platform at the late election pledged its party to the passage of such laws.

Governor Eagle and the State officers of Arkansas pronounce emphatically in favor of the system. They say that it was not due to any objections to it that the bill embodying it did not pass the houses of the last Legislature.

In Tennessee the popular will favors the system. Governor Taylor says that the franchise which established it in Tennessee has not as yet been fairly tested. He adds:

But it has been sufficiently demonstrated that it is a good law and will eventually be adopted in every state of the Union. It ought to be used in the composition of a ballot, purifying the ballot-box, and would make fraud almost, if not altogether, impossible.

Minnesota has adopted the new system, and Governor Keyes, who signed the bill, says:

It is the best means yet devised to reach a fair test of the wishes of the people. Men who have sufficient brains to read and think for themselves will be able to do so without the surveillance of ward bosses. The ignorant and illiterate, however, are in about the same condition. No voter can be compelled to devise which can put them beyond the wiles of political tricksters.

The City Trustees do for the people and retain their respect and confidence.

THE ALTO'S COMMERCIAL REVIEW for the year 1889 leads that journal to the judgment that in all material lines it was a year of prosperity for California. This is too sweeping. Probably in the commerce of the metropolis the Alto's conclusion is reflected, but there were material lines along which prosperity did not travel in the year 1889. There was not much railroad building, there was not much tourist travel, there was not much immigration, and the State Trustee do for the people and retain their respect and confidence.

In Maine the Mayor of every city and town have been "interviewed" upon the subject, and all of them declare that the people insist upon the establishment of the new system.

In West Virginia Governor Wilson, in calling a special session of the Legislature, includes, as one of the matters to be considered, the framing of a new ballot law on the model of the reform system. The reports from West Virginia are that the sentiment favoring such action predominates largely. Kentucky, Iowa, Maryland, Wisconsin, Mississippi, Arkansas, New York and Delaware are looked upon as likely to be treated by it, and in a comprehensive and systematic manner. The questions of means and method are secondary, and regardless of what the Convention may say the Government will act in such matters only after investigation by its own engineers or Commissioners, and according to their reports of the need for action of a particular character.

Let the delegates come up to the Convention fully impressed with the importance of not overloading the memorial it is to send out, with matter that will create discussion on unsettled issues, or involve this, that or the other system of work that should be engaged in by the Federal Government. The question of reclamation, of mining, of drainways, of relief canals, of enlargement of the mouth of the river, of cutting off bends, of levelling, of dredging, and all such matters, should be untouched by the Convention. Let it present the facts as they are, the value of the river as a free highway and as a drain to the valley, its commercial importance, its present condition compared to that in the early days of the State, and then appeal to Congress to order its treatment solely on the basis of restoring and preserving its navigability to all the people of all the land. If the Federal Government can be moved to do what is unquestionably its duty, the purpose of the Convention will have been accomplished. All the questions of means and methods will be proper enough subjects upon which to address the Commission that it is hoped the Government will create for the treatment of the river, and there will be time enough to discuss them when such a Commission is raised. If, however, the Convention gets into the deep water of arguing the case in its memorial as to causes or remedies, the result will be disastrous. Let it be wise in its day, and confine itself to the one great purpose of its creation.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT FRANCHISE.

Referring again to the electric light franchise now in process of passage by the Board of City Trustees, we wish to impress upon the minds of the people the danger of granting any such franchise on the term of fifty years, and the grave mistake it will be to grant it for any term of out many carefully considered and clearly expressed restrictions.

We are not opposed, let it be understood, to the granting of this franchise.

On the contrary, it ought to be granted under proper restrictions, irrespective of any opposition that may possibly develop, or that has been shown by existing companies. Our suggestions do not arise out of any partisanship, nor are they promoted by any animosity to the new scheme.

We stand for the best interests of the people of the city of Sacramento, and the course of the RECORD-UNION all these years should be the best guarantee of its sincerity in this matter. We therefore warn the people once more that there is about to be granted for the period of half a century, from their bounty, a right with which they cannot interfere, at all interfere, to use the streets, alleys and avenues of Sacramento above and below ground, for any and all possible purposes that the grantees may see fit in the use of electricity as an agent for money making; that to this grant there does not attach a solitary restriction; not even as ordinary a one as requires a political committee to clear up the spot on which it builds a bonfire in the street.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

A subscriber, writing from Pike City, asks: "Where was John Wilkes Booth when he shot Abraham Lincoln?" He was in a private box at Ford's Theater, Washington, D. C. The same writer asks: "What number of legal holidays in a year?" Under an Act of the last Legislature, approved March 1, 1889, the number depends entirely upon the Governor, Section 10 of the Code of Civil Procedure was then amended so as to read as follows: "Holidays within the meaning of this code are the first Sunday in January, the twenty-second day of February, the thirtieth of May, the fourth day of July, the ninth day of September, the twenty-fifth day of December, every day on which an election is held throughout the State, and every day appointed by the President of the United States, or by the Governor of this State, for a public fast, thanksgiving, or holiday, etc."

The Rev. Henry A. Adams, rector of St. Paul's Church, Buffalo, at one time rector of Trinity Church, New York city, attended the Press Club dinner in that city a few nights ago, and in speaking of the press said: "In nine cases out of ten the press speaks on the right side. As to Sunday newspapers, the sooner the Christian world recognizes that the Sunday paper has come to stay, and that it preaches to the thousand, not to the hundred, the better for the people. I have always begged the reporters not to put my sermon in the Monday paper, but to save it till Sunday, and preach to the people who do not go to church. Our cause is one."

We have frequent inquiries of late from various parts of the State asking information in regard to the conditions of admittance to the Leland Stanford Jr. University, to whom application should be made for renting cottages, etc. So far as we know none of the details have yet been announced.

The Stockton Daily Mail issued as a supplement to its New Year's edition an almanac for the year 1890, containing a large amount of valuable information in regard to the San Joaquin valley, and the lives and portraits of some distinguished authors and poets.

The Portland Oregonian issued a New Year's edition of thirty-two pages.

The Marysville Appeal has entered upon

before they acted upon the granting of the franchise, and the warning was given because we feared that would happen which has happened. The matter is now up for reconsideration, and we again warn the Trustees that if they persist in their present course they will find cause to regret it within the next two years, or else scientists and electricians are woefully mistaken concerning the direction that electrical science is taking and the developments that it is on the eve of manifesting.

As to the contract for lighting the streets, we reiterate the opinion already expressed, that the right thing to do is to declare all bids off; postpone the letting of the contract until the new company has had full opportunity to establish its plan and fit itself to bid, with ability to undertake performance so soon as the contract is awarded. Surely there can be raised to such a proposition no reasonable objection. If this is not done the Trustees will have placed the city of Sacramento in the humiliating attitude of having granted a franchise which the applicants flatly say they consider of no value whatever, unless there is given with it the contract to light the streets. No corporation ever before in the history of any municipal government made such a munus as propo-

nition; no city in the world ever acceded to such an unblushing demand.

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ABOUT THE SUMMIT.

TRAIN DELAYED BY THE TREMENDOUS SNOW-BANKS.

The Railroad Track Frequently Blocked, and Old-Style Plows of Little Use—Work of the Rotary.

The snow and wind-storms in the mountains on Thursday are reported by the railroad people to have been terrific, and as a result no through trains, freight or passenger, had arrived in this city up to last evening, since noon on Thursday. The two overland trains—one of which was due at 6:25 on Thursday evening and the other at 6 a.m. yesterday morning, had not arrived up to dark last evening in consequence of the blockade.

To a Record-Union reporter Secretary Breckenfield of Superintendent Wright's office gave a graphic description of the storm, the operations of the force of men fighting the snow, and the snow-plows. On Thursday afternoon, with the wind blowing a hurricane and the air filled with blinding snow, one of the old model snow-plows, with six large steel runners behind it, started from Alia to plow eastward and clear the track to Blue Canyon. It succeeded in scattering the snow from the track up to within two miles of the latter place, where, on account of the increasing violence of the wind and falling snow, it had to give up the attempt to get to Blue Canyon. Snow had fallen over the track behind the train, and the entire outfit became blockaded.

THE NEW ROTARY PLOW

We, looking south, saw the Cascades, whose the sheds were recently broken down, and it was also headed eastward endeavoring to keep the road clear as far as the Summit. Receiving the news that the other plow was storm-bound near Blue Canyon, and being ordered thither to help extricate it, the trainmen started for the Summit turntable in order to head the plow. They had just started when a side of the Summit, in a place where there were no sheds, they cut up a snow-drift for a distance of over 200 feet and to a depth of 15 feet.

THE SOLID BANK OF SNOW
Was bored into by the plow, and the track for the whole distance was cleared in grand style, although all the windows in the cab were smashed. The plow reached the Summit late at night and resolved to wait until the day yesterday morning before starting back.

With the fast mail train behind them the start was made, but again eight feet of snow was found on the track in the open space which had but a short time before been cleared of the obstruction—a fissure in the bank had caused it to slide back again upon the track. Forging through this, they proceeded eastward, where the overland stopped and the passengers were accommodated in the hotel.

The plow then proceeded to the assistance of the one blockaded, and was working at that place yesterday afternoon.

TRAIN DELAYED.

The overland trains which left here Thursday evening were at Colfax during Friday, Saturday, and most of yesterday, awaiting the clearing of the road.

It snowed as far down the Applegate yesterday morning, and when the Colfax train came into the depot here, about 10 o'clock, the tops of the cars were covered with snow, and a huge pillow of "the beautiful" covered the pilot of the locomotive.

THIRTEEN FEET AT THE SUMMIT.

The depth of snow at the Summit yesterday was increased from fourteen to sixteen feet, and there was a proportionate increase in the distance between the two railroads. The tremendous snowfall at such an altitude insures a high stage of water in the Sacramento river in the spring, and possibly until late into the summer—the later the better, as it is not desirable that the snow should come down too rapidly in liquid form. In the mountains had not been so thorough a clearing of their timber by the lumbermen and Comstock miners, and of their undergrowth by sheep-owners, this mass of snow would provide.

PLenty of WATER.

In the river for navigation purposes throughout the whole summer. But there has of late years been little to protect the snow from the hot rays of the sun, and the result has been a rapid melting, with consequent high river in the spring and low water in the summer.

As January, February and March are usually months of the heaviest snowstorms, the probability is that there will be upward of twenty—and perhaps thirty—feet of snow about the Summit before the winter concludes its efforts. In some portions of the mountains there is a fair second growth of timber, and these serve to hold the snow back longer than usual by preventing its too rapid melting.

THE SITUATION LAST NIGHT.

At a late hour last night Assistant Division Superintendent Jones and Train Dispatcher Wilder were seen by the reporter. It was learned from them that the west-bound trains were still behind the blockade, but might reach here this morning.

The rotary plow had also been stalled near Blue-Canyon, snow-sheds having occurred in front and to the rear of it. The plow was, however, "working out its own salvation," and it was expected that it would be free before midnight.

There was no snow falling last night on the lower sides of the Summit, but some on this side.

Assistant Superintendent Burkhalter was at Cisco—as far as he could go for the time being—and was directing operations in that vicinity.

The company sent up some more snow-shovels last night, and now has upward of 500 men at Eureka, Gold Hill, and Grange, and many of them are said to be very tough customers. Mr. Wilder said that from all he had heard it must be

A GRAND SIGHT.

To see the rotary plow strike a snowbank and march through it. It throws the snow on either side, as desired (which is naturally the down-hill side), and for a distance of from 100 to 150 feet. He said he would be pleased to hear of some of the little shacks and tents at the end being completely submerged by the snow thrown off by the plow. With the exception of where the sheds are intact the tracks between walls of snow as high as the car-tops.

On the Oregon line trains are running all right, except that the south-bound express, due here at 3:40 this morning, is ten hours behind.

IN THE VALLEY.

Rain and Sunshine Yesterday—A Hail-storm in the Afternoon.

Several showers of rain visited this section yesterday, alternating with a spell of sunshine. About 3:45 P.M. there occurred a sharp hail-storm, lasting for several minutes. Theraillial (including the hail-storm) amounted to .18 of an inch, making .96 of an inch for the month, and 17.95 inches for the season, as against 9.46 inches to an equal date last year.

The barometer was quite low yesterday at 5 P.M., recording 29.69 inches, and having no appearance of rising.

The temperature at 5 A.M. and 5 P.M. was 58° and 42° respectively, while the highest and lowest was 46° and 38°, as against 44° and 39° on the same date last year.

The highest and lowest temperature one year ago to-day was 57° and 40°, with cloudy weather prevailing. The first appreciable rainfall last January was on the 12th, when 08 of an inch fell.

DECEMBER WEATHER.

The Signal Service Summary for the Month Just Passed.

The following is the summary of the weather observations made by the Signal Service, Division of the Pacific, for December: The month was marked by an unusual

number of storms upon the Pacific coast, of which a greater proportion than usual first appeared upon the coast of California. Rain fell in Oregon and Washington on nineteen days, in Southern California on eighteen days and in Northern California on twenty-four days.

Temperature.—The mean temperature of the month was slightly above the normal temperature for December in Southern California and slightly below the normal in other Pacific coast districts.

Mean temperatures at selected stations were as follows: Portland, Or., 38°; Roseburg, Or., 46°; Red Bluff, Cal., 45°; Sacramento, Cal., 49°; San Francisco, 51°; Fresno, 49°; Los Angeles, 55°; San Diego, 58°.

Rainfall.—In Western Washington and Northwestern Oregon the rainfall for the month was below the normal December rainfall. In all other districts the precipitation was greater than the normal amount, particularly in California, where no station reported less than twice the usual amount. At several California stations more than five times the normal rainfall was reported.

The following table shows, for selected stations, the rainfall for the month and season to January 1st:

STATIONS.	Normal December rainfall.	Actual December rainfall.	Normal January 1st.	Actual January 1st.
Olympia, W. T.	10.17	4.10	26.88	18.73
Socorro Falls W. T.	2.20	2.20	7.49	4.59
Walla Walla, W. T.	8.55	5.65	14.61	17.80
Portland, Or.	10.65	10.20	5.65	4.11
Roseburg, Or.	10.65	10.20	21.00	19.00
Redding, Cal.	1.81	17.66	12.81	37.86
Red Bluff	1.90	19.20	9.00	15.44
San Francisco, Cal.	2.11	2.10	5.65	4.44
Chico	1.65	9.72	9.20	18.83
Colusa	2.22	2.06	4.65	17.71
Marysville	3.39	9.01	6.88	18.05
Colton	1.00	1.00	5.00	5.00
Willows	2.47	8.02	4.03	18.05
Davis	3.61	9.02	5.55	20.20
Yreka	1.90	12.48	2.40	24.72
Vacaville	4.57	10.76	18.81	21.53
Suisun	5.21	17.07	10.70	21.53
Marin	4.00	12.26	7.20	21.44
South Lake	15.00	20.00	29.10	29.10
Indio	2.68	9.60	4.90	16.60
Galt	2.88	6.41	5.65	14.27
Stockton	1.72	6.76	3.40	16.00
Lodi	1.71	7.82	4.80	15.51
Livermore	2.64	11.49	4.80	16.91
Antioch	2.74	11.08	5.04	20.68
Martinez	2.74	11.08	5.04	20.68
Oakland	4.01	12.36	8.60	22.34
San Francisco	4.67	13.81	8.80	24.00
San Jose	1.10	11.71	8.80	18.57
Hollister	1.60	6.65	3.75	12.20
Los Gatos	1.88	7.00	3.40	18.47
Sacramento	3.95	7.00	6.90	23.90
Auburn	5.94	11.24	11.26	23.54
Modesto	7.02	12.00	11.50	24.50
Turlock	1.27	6.46	3.29	13.50
Fresno	1.25	6.36	3.00	12.45
Kingsburg	1.71	7.33	3.00	17.20
Goshen	1.44	3.21	2.50	8.42
Healdsburg	1.44	3.21	2.50	8.42
Tulare	1.02	1.90	1.70	7.20
Delano	0.79	1.97	1.67	4.95
Visalia	2.73	5.00	3.50	24.82
Los Angeles	2.00	3.50	2.00	24.50
San Diego	2.07	7.70	3.50	9.94
Keeler	0.88	1.60	1.34	3.34
Yuma, Ariz.	1.00	1.80	1.50	3.89

POLICE COURT.

The Condon-Murray Case—J. H. Pike Held to Answer for Felony.

In the Police Court yesterday the case of Mrs. Wheeler, charged with disturbing the peace, was continued until next Wednesday.

The arraignment of Thomas Burns, charged with assault to murder, was continued until today.

John Condon was acquitted of the charge of assault with a deadly weapon. The complaining witness was one W. F. Murray, who claimed that Condon struck him with a monkey-wrench because he (Murray) would not get down from a wagon.

The affair occurred in Wilson's stable, where both men were employed. Condon being the foreman of the stable, was recognized by several witnesses that Murray was very much intoxicated at the time, and in exceedingly offensive language declared that he would attend to the horse and wagon, and no one else should.

Condon, after getting him from the seat of the wagon, struck him with the wrench, and then the Custom House officers, who arrived at San Francisco recently on the steamer Belgic, and having no return certificates to land on the ship, were sent ashore to China.

Judge Buckley examined the rights of a foreigner arriving every week at San Francisco, and it was an impossibility for the Custom House officials to make any extended inquiries into the claims made by these "prior residents."

All that could be done was to take brief statements from each of the passengers, through interpreter, and employ it in his argument. Of course, it was not supposed for a moment that the plaintiff or his counsel (they not being bankers) would know anything about the editorial adjudication of the case.

Politz himself was called as a witness in the trial, and he stated that he was needlessly frightened into the act of going through investigation. He testified that he supposed he was perfectly solvent at the time he made the \$400 deposit in the bank, and asked the teller to pay the Steinhardt note, but a few hours later in the same day he was a wild man, and from single individual he was to be attacked and therefore put in a position of insolvency.

He had not learned who it was that proposed to attach his stock, and does not know to this day who it was. In short, it was "a false alarm."

"A FALSE ALARM."

HOW IT CAUSED GODFREY POLITZ GO INTO INSOLVENCY.

And Gets a Creditor and Bank Into Lawsuit—Some Important Points to be Settled.

An interesting case came up in Judge Armstrong's Court yesterday—that of W. & I. Steinhardt, of San Francisco, against the National Bank of D. O. Mills & Co. Briefly stated the facts are about as follows: Godfrey Politz, of this city, owed the Steinhardts \$860, for which they held his note. The latter firm, on the 18th of February last, sent the note to the bank here for collection. Politz was indebted to the bank on a past-due loan for a much larger sum than the note. He went to the bank before noon and wrote on the face of the note: "Charge to my account; Politz." The note was placed on the spindle, and a draft made for the amount and placed in the mail before 4 o'clock P.M. of the same day.

At 3 o'clock the bank's transactions were closed for the day, and the note was entered in the journal against Politz. At 4 P.M. the bank's cashier heard of the note and recovered it from the Postoffice. The letter was taken from it, the past-due loan was charged against Politz, and the note was returned to the Steinhardts with a hole in the center of it.

The Steinhardts claimed the money from the bank, and when the note was paid, it was commenced for the bank to collect for the San Francisco firm that the bank had made an assignment. The letter was recovered from the Postoffice and the note was returned to the Steinhardt with a hole in the center of it.

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HARBORING A TRAMP.

It was near night of a raw, gloomy day in the autumn of 1886 that a seedy-looking tramp turned up at a lonely farm house on the Kentucky side of the Ohio river, and asked for something to eat and a place to sleep. A widow with two children, a son and a daughter, lived there. The son, a young man of twenty-two, had gone to Marysville with a small drove of cattle, which he expected to dispose of in that place in time to reach home at an early hour in the evening, and he intended to bring the proceeds of the sale with him. The daughter, a rather pretty girl of nine, teen, was delicate and timid.

"I'll give you what you want to eat," said the widow, whose name was Chalmers, after she had looked the man carefully over and taken a little time for reflection; "but as for lodgings you, I wouldn't like to agree to that before consulting my husband, who may not be home till 8 or 9 o'clock."

"How far is it to the next house?" he asked.

"Nearly two miles."

"And night just coming on," returned the other. "I don't like tramping a lonely road after dark. Won't you let me stay till your son comes home and take my chance with him?"

"I don't know that I ought to object to that," was the somewhat reluctant consent of Mrs. Chalmers.

She gave the tramp a good supper and persuaded him to sit by the general fire—she or her daughter, one or both, being constantly in the room. Eight o'clock, 9 o'clock, 10 o'clock came, and the son and brother had not returned. Soon after the latter hour, however, he rose up to the door. After some warm greetings on both sides and brief explanation that the dinner was delayed in starting, while the darkness of the country had compelled him to move slowly, he proceeded to stable and fed his horse, and then came in. On seeing the tramp and learning why he was there he felt more uneasiness than he cared to show, for he had brought home with him a considerable amount of money. His decision, however, was prompt and full of the kindness of charity. After two or three pointed questions to the unwell-comer, which were satisfactorily answered, he said:

"Certainly you can stay through the night. I could not find it in my heart to turn adrift any well-behaved human being on a night like this."

"Thank you kindly, sir," politely responded the man. "You will not regret your hospitality."

The language and manners of the fellow indicated a certain degree of refined culture now in keeping with his present position, and the man and the young host at his supper held a cordial conference with him which convinced him of this fact. His first intention was to throw down some horse blankets and robes, and let him camp down before the fire, but this design was altered with his opinion of the man's antecedents, and so he finally lighted him to a decent bed up stairs under the roof, and then he and the family retired for the night, occupying two rooms on the ground floor. While these things were taking place inside that lonely farm house some things were occurring outside that vitally concerned the parties we have introduced. Two men met in the road a few rods from the dwelling and conversed in low, guarded tones.

"Well?" queried one.

"All right!" answered the other. "He's home and got the money with him. There is \$1,700 I know about, that I know he brought away with him for sure, and that ought to pay for the venture, if we don't get any more."

"All right, then. When shall we begin?"

"I reckon between 12 and 1 o'clock will be the best time. He's been home about long enough to get his supper and turn in, and after the long hard day and night he's had of it we must give him a chance to get sound asleep."

The plotters got under a shed and waited till the time fixed upon for their burglarious work. There were no shutters to the windows—only inside fastenings. To enter they decided to cut out a middle pane of one of the two family-room windows, pass an arm through, remove the fastenings and crawl through the lower half. Then the two burglars, their faces concealed by black masks, worked their way into the room, fished a light all around them from the bulb of the eye of the lantern they carried, and noiselessly advanced to the bed of the sleeper—one prepared with chloroform to seal up his senses, but both ready to murder him rather than fail in their purpose. Just at that critical point of time another human figure, unseen by them, came silently gliding through the darkness and stealing up behind them. It was the tramp. In his hand he held a rope with a noose at one end, not unlike a lasso. He stopped so near the midnight prowlers that he could have touched them. The robbers, both intent upon their evil design, did not look behind them. They stopped to tie the bed of the sleeping man, one looking over the shoulder of the other. The forward one had a handkerchief in his hand saturated with chloroform and in the other hand the lantern, whose light he streamed full upon the face of the sleeper.

Just as he reached forward to press the handkerchief to the nostrils of their intended victim the second robber, armed with a knife and revolver, prepared for the deadly assault, brought his head close up to his companion's, the better to note the slightest movement. At that moment the tramp skillfully threw his noose over the heads of both. Then, with a vigorous backward spring, he tightened the noose around the necks of both and jerked them down—stumbling, floundering, crashing, surprised, terrified and almost strangled.

"Surprise and throw down your weapons or I'll beat your brains out!" cried the tramp, as he jerked and pulled upon the cords in order to strangle the intruders into submission. The answer was three pistol shots from the man who held the revolver, neither of which hit the tramp, but one of which entered the brain of his companion and ended his wicked work for this world. The noise roused the sleeper, who started up in alarm, with loud cries of murder and for help. This, in turn, set the women to shrieking, and the late silent and peaceful dwelling became for the time a bedlam of horrors.

"Keep quiet, Mr. Chalmers; you shall not be harmed!" said the tramp, as still pulling at the rope, he pounded the head of the living robber with the butt of his revolver till he sank under the blows. "Now get a light," he continued, "or turn the light of the villainous lantern upon their faces and see what your tramp has done for you."

McPherson's Nerve.

One of the most composed men while the balloting for Clerk of the House was in progress, says the Washington Post, was Mr. McPherson, the successful candidate. Just before the vote was completed Mr. McPherson was called into the members' corridor by one of the Pennsylvania Congressmen. He passed through the long line of newspapermen and heard their bits of pleasantries at his expense without being the least excited or nervousness. His errand at this time was no doubt an important one, for when he had completed his conference with his Congressional friend the latter turned to a bevy of members who were waiting for him with the door at the right of the speaker's stand and communicated some of their fears. His indication was entirely satisfactory, and they at once returned to their seats and cast their votes for McPherson when their names were called. As Mr. McPherson came out of the lobby he was besieged by the newspapermen for news of the fight, but managed to quiet them.

"You have much to thank me for, it is true, because you would certainly have been robbed, if not murdered, if I had not been under your roof; but you have to thank me for it in a different way than you suppose. I'm not here by accident, but design. I'm no tramp, but a detective.

I've had my eye on these villains for some time, but needed proof before arresting them. By chance I overheard a plot to rob George Chalmers the night he should get paid for his cattle, and I worked out the rest, as you see. This villain, Samuel Jennings," nodding to the now tightly-bound living robber, "must either go to the State Prison or the gallows."

"Neither, you miserable scamp!" cried the man with a long string of blasphemous oaths.

He never did, for on the day of the Coroner's inquest on his companion he was found hanged and dead. On removing his false hair and beard the tramp detective was found to be a handsome fellow. A warm friendship sprang up between him and George Chalmers, and shortly after a still warmer one between him and Mary Chalmers. It seems enough to merely add that she is now his happy, grateful and loving wife.—*Telolo Blade.*

LABOR TOPICS.

The London strike made 100,000 trade unionists.

Of our 4,500,000 farmers 1,000,000 are organized.

England's unions have decided to discontinue piece work.

Synder's knitting hands, at Amsterdam, N. Y., cut 10 per cent.

San Francisco building trades will form an eight-hour league.

Ohio's Labor Commission says girls under 18 are employed in a factory that deals in obscene literature.

The workingmen of Victoria will erect a \$25,000 monument in honor of the triumph of the eight-hour day.

Pittsburg horseshoers were refused a charter of incorporation, on the ground that the Union was to regulate wages, etc.

In Germany the law makes servants give one month's notice before leaving. She must give similar notice before a discharge.

Sidlebottom & Walton, of Philadelphia, contemplate the erection of a cotton factory at Amistian, Ala. A factory of 600 by 100 feet is to be built at Florence. The latter concern is to have a capital stock of \$500,000.

It is reported that John Burns, the leader of the great London dock strike, will visit this country. He is expected to arrive early in February, and will deliver a series of lectures under the auspices of the American Federation of Labor.

The largest manufacturer of wheelbarrows in the United States is located at Lansing, Michigan. It consumes 1,500,000 feet of lumber annually, and turns out 50,000 wheelbarrows. Five thousand wheelbarrows were recently shipped from this factory to Nicaragua to be used on the canal.

Dishes Fit for Queens.

A Frenchman has been collecting data recently in regard to the dishes which the feminine rulers of European countries prefer upon their tables. According to his statements, Queen Victoria is especially fond of the Scotch cuisine. Her meal is invariably begun with a plate of oatmeal porridge, so dear to the palate of the Highlander. One of her favorite dishes is smoked ham. She drinks beer with great gusto, and eats bread baked especially hard and firm. The Queen of Sweden eats substantial food, consisting of beefsteak, which is an invariable part of each meal's bill-of-fare. She is also fond of smoked salmon, preserved according to the method of her country; of meat balls dressed with beans, and of eggs fried in bacon and onions. The Queen of Germany, strange to say, despite the German names of the dishes, is addicted to the French cuisine. The Empress Frederick, however, prefers the English cooking, and is especially fond of pastry. The royal family of Italy, although in many ways the simplest and most democratic in Europe, always dine from dishes of gold. They only drink the wine of their own country, and show great preference for the "frutto," a dish composed of the hearts of artichokes and the combs and livers of chickens. Ex-Queen Isabella loves the "coido" of Castle, with all its accessories. She also eats daily a portion of rice. The Queen Regent of Spain prefers the Austrian cuisine. She eats roasts of all kinds, with jellies, gooseberry jelly being one of her principal favorites. During the early days of her life in Spain she ate only bread and of bread, of late years, however, probably in keeping with her patriotic endeavors, she eats the bread of with diamonds.

INCIDENT AT A COURT BALL.

An American Girl Vanquishes a Russian Mistress of Etiquette.

[From the Washington Post.]

The following is a narrative of an incident which occurred in St. Petersburg some years ago. The American lady concerned is the daughter of a prominent public benefactor, has for years been a social leader in society, is the wife of a leading Republican statesman and would be recognized instantly if her name might be mentioned.

A grand ball was in progress at the palace of a high-ranking military member of the Cabinet. Generals of the army, Grand Dukes, the nobility of the empire, and the diplomatic corps were present. It was a notable affair. Four young ladies—three Russian and one American—had gathered into a little nook screened in palms, and were discussing in French the dowdy appearance of a high court lady. Some eavesdropper caught their remarks and bore them to the critical lady. She in turn reported the conversation to a noble Duchess, who held the peculiar office of "Mistress of Etiquette." She retired to a private room and had the four culprits summoned before her. They appeared, the Russian girls in fear and trembling, the American calm and self-possessed.

"Young ladies," said she, "you have been commenting disrespectfully upon the person of a member of the Court. You have committed a grave breach of etiquette and it is my duty as court mistress to punish you. Olga, you slipper!"

"Does dev? Does dev eat watermelons?"

CITY IMPROVEMENTS.

FILLING STREETS AND LOTS—METHODS OF DOING THE WORK.

Some Suggestions by a Correspondent Who is Studying the Matter.

Eos. RECORD-UNION: I ought not to apologize for offering my views on a subject that is of public importance and it would not, but for the frequency of their appearance. I offer them simply for what they are worth.

A communication from the City Attorney says "that an ordinance could not be passed that would be effectual incensing the filling of the low lots all over the city. It could only be done under a new charter."

That, of course, is to be, if the City Attorney is to decide, one feature of the new charter. A good many people, who have no low lots, will say that "this is a good thing. Low lots are a nuisance, an eyesore, and must be filled up for the good of the city." Then, if the good of the city will be subserved it ought to be in the power of the Board of Trustees to order them filled." This is a question of great magnitude, and the experience of the city and low-lot property owners is varied and full of interest.

It is known that many lots have been ex-
changed, and others having been given up other lots, to make streets, grade streets, manufacture bricks and even railroad tracks. Usually lots in the outskirts of the city have been used to benefit lots further within.

These low lots have often been ordered to be filled, and I believe have sometimes been confiscated, in effect. Very many of these would cost nearly as much, and a few more than they are worth to fill them now.

Still many will say, "make the owners fill them, and remove the eyesores and nuisances." But how shall this be done? The owners do not think it best to fill the lots, and the city does not have the power to have them filled placed in the hands of the Trustees." It may possibly be best to do this, but there is some doubt in my mind about it. As far as possible men should be allowed to control their own lots and property. If it is best that they should be, then let the city wait.

If the owners do not see that this interest will be promoted by grading them, the first thing to be done is kindly to convince them. This can best be done by argument and right reason. Though the process be slow, it is the best. The one who argues and the one who hears will each be benefited. His labor is part of the labor that constitutes the true worth of a city. It is the slow method, but in the end it is not the slowest.

To put the master in the hands of the Trustees is the quick method, but it is much like the proclamation by the Czar who orders a city to be built by serfs, and a few more than they are worth to fill them now.

The moderate or middle course is the best one. The superintendence—the right of promotion and stimulation of the ends in view, is properly in the hands of the city officers; or rather should be there.

The first step to be taken is that a complaint is made these masters should be looked into. The officers must move in a matter even if no higher end is subserved than to enable some person to sell his place, for people do not like to live near low lots.

This way the low lots and high ones are set by the ears, and at the expense of the city, though the city is benefited. Under this state of things high lots are bought because, by a complaint lodged with the proper officers, the buyer can have the low lot filled up.

These rules hold in improving streets and alleys. I owe one-fourth of the lots on an alley of a block. The alley is high opposite my lot, so that when the alleys are graded the lot must be filled up. The cost of the lot must be filled in my lot must be filled up. It is all at my cost, though a large part of the benefit is to the owners of high lots.

Now, the power to order the raising of low lots to the grade ought not to be confined to the absolute form, but know a lot on Tenth street between J and K, that is nearly ten feet below the grade. Tenth street. It is cleanly and in good condition. The water does not stand on it because, I suppose, it has pipes to carry it away. This is, at least, an exception to be made to the rule that the new charter is proposed to embody.

May it not be that there are 250 low lots in the city, the filling of which to the grades of the streets would bankrupt the owners, in which a small pipe laid would empty the water fast as it falls?

Are there not 100 more lots that would be dry if the gutters were dug and kept in order by the city? In this case, the city would be relieved, and will language or language or documents express the difficulty so clearly that the people can understand it? As graded streets are the rule in our city, let me ask whether the water runs over such gravel from the center of the street, or is it run through the gravel and stones, dirt beneath, like a sieve? When it reaches the dirt does not this become soft and permit the gravel to sink in it, as if it were water?

Asphaltum is water-proof and if the surface were covered with that the soil below would be kept dry and would give way and the water could not sink.

A man should be able to put the water into the gutters and the water is still found in the gutters till emptied into our sewers.

But the water must first get into the gutters, before it can be carried away by them!

Solve the problem of how to do this, and I will show you a city without mud—without dirt, without mud, and the mud will be cleaned, and will language or language or documents express the difficulty so clearly that the people can understand it?

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